

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 5 1. A method for processing a solution containing heparin in a solvent or a mixture of solvents to a dry solid form of heparin characterized by the use of a drum dryer at atmospheric pressure or under vacuum and at a suitable drying temperature.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein the heparin is a free heparin; or a salt of heparin with an
10 alkali metal, or an alkaline earth metal, or ammonium, or a quaternary ammonium, or tertiary amine, or any organic base; or a complex of heparin with an inorganic or organic salt such as an ammonium salt, or a quaternary ammonium salt, or a tertiary amine salt.
3. The method of claim 1 wherein the heparin is heparin sodium.
- 15 4. The method of claim 2 wherein the heparin is heparin sodium.
5. The method of claim 1 wherein the solvent of the heparin solution is water or water with water miscible organic solvents, or alcohols.
- 20 6. The method of claim 5 wherein the organic solvent is an alcohol or a mixture of alcohols.
7. The method of claim 5 wherein the organic solvent is acetone.
- 25 8. The method of claim 1 wherein the drum dryer is a double drum dryer.
9. The method of claim 1 wherein the drum dryer is a single drum dryer.
10. The method of claim 1 wherein the drying temperature is between 20-210 °C.
- 30 11. The method of claim 1 wherein the drying temperature is between 130-170 °C.
12. The method of claim 1 wherein the pressure is between 0.01 mmHg to atmospheric pressure.

13. The method of claim 11 wherein the pressure is atmospheric pressure.
14. The method of claim 1, wherein the dry solid form of heparin is produced in less than 1
5 minute from initial contact of the solution containing heparin with a drum.
15. The method of claim 1, wherein the dry solid form of heparin is produced in less than 30
seconds from initial contact of the solution containing heparin with a drum.
- 10 16. The method of claim 1 wherein the dry solid form of heparin has a potency of at least
140 u/mg.
17. The method of claim 1 wherein the dry solid form of heparin has a potency of at least
160 u/mg.
15